Failure of Bt. Cotton

†290. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crop of the Bt. Cotton failed in many parts of the country and the farmers had to incur heavy losses;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to compensate these losses;

(c) whether the Bt. Cotton variety is unnecessary for India; and

(d) if so, the details of the meaningful steps taken to curb the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had reported large scale complaints in respect of Bt. Cotton hybrids which had not performed in the Warrangal districts and in some pockets of other districts in Kharif, 2004 causing losses to the Bt. Cotton growers. As per the information received from Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has calculated compensation amounting Rs. 3.84 crore against the company. The company has appealed before the State level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Committee and Hon'ble High Court. The Genetic Engierring Approval Committee (GEAC) has also not renewed their permission of three Bt. Cotton hybrids (namely Bt. MECH-12, Bt. MECH-162 and BT. MECH-184) for Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has also imposed ban so sale of Bt. Cotton hybrids of the company during Kharif, 2005. In Rajasthan State, due to inadequate rains, long dry spell and high temperature during growth period of the crop, some Bt. Cotton fields have been seen to exhibit poor performance.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as well as Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests have also advised all the Bt. Cotton growing States from time to time to take punitive action against producers, suppliers and venders of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Seed (Control) Order, 1983. States have also been advised to monitor the performance of Bt. Cotton by constituting state level and distirct level coordination committees. Besides, the Central Institute

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has teen notified as referral laboratory for detecting the presence/absence of Bt. Gene. The Department of Seed Certification, Tamil Nadu has established* a laboratory for similar purpose at Coimbatore. State Governments have also constituted special flying squads to prevent sale of illegal Bt. Cotton seeds. They have also undertaken massive campaign for educating farmers on the issue.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Banning chemical fertilizers

291. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified thirty-seven chemical fertilizers such as monochrotophas to ban;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consultations have been held before banning them with the stake-holders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. 37 pesticides, including monocrotophos, have been identified for review of their toxicity, persistence, safety etc. in order to decide upon their continued use or restricted use or phasing out.

(b) The details are enclosed at Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) The Expert Group constituted to review these pesticides has been entrusted with the task of consulting major stakeholders, including associations of the pesticides industry befoe finalizing their recommendations.